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520.35693CX1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Y. TERAHAMA, et al  
Serial No.: 09/846,615  
Filed: May 2, 2001  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONNECTING TERMINALS IN A REMOTE CONSULTING SYSTEM  
Group: 2152  
Attention: Notice of Missing Parts

PETITION UNDER 37 CFR §1.17(h)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

June 8, 2001

Sir:

Applicants are in receipt of a Notice of Omitted Item(s) in a Nonprovisional Application dated May 18, 2001 wherein the United States Patent and Trademark Office alleges that Figs. 26 and 27 were omitted from the application filed on May 2, 2001. Applicants do not agree. Accordingly, the following response to the Notice is provided.

The above-referenced application filed under 37 CFR §1.53(b) using Transmittal Form PTO/SB/05 is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/934,063, filed September 19, 1997 allowed on January 2, 2001. Applicants submit that as per Box 18 of the Transmittal Form:

"For continuation or divisional applications only: The entire disclosure of the prior application... is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated herein by reference."

Thus, to the extent that Figs. 26 and 27 may have been omitted from the application, the omission occurred due to inadvertence. In any event this possible inadvertent omission is cured being that the entire contents of prior application Serial No. 08/934,063, filed September 19, 1997, including Figs. 26 and 27 to which the above-referenced application is a continuation were incorporated in the above referenced application by reference. Therefore, the above-referenced application was complete as filed on May 2, 2001. Accordingly, the date of May 2, 2001 should be entered as the filing date of the above-referenced application.

However, in order to expedite the processing of the above-referenced application, Applicants are submitting Figs. 26 and 27 herewith. As per the above, the date of submission of Figs. 26 and 27 should not be used as the filing date of the above-referenced application. The May 2, 2001 filing date of the above-referenced application should be retained and the application passed on to the Examiner for examination.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for extension of time. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (520.35693CX1).

Respectfully submitted,

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